

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARINER!

Duxbury Clipper, Thursday, April 18, 1974

(Lois Martin, a staffer of the Marshfield Mariner, wrote the following article. David is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Cutler of Duxbury. Mike is the son of Monroe Stearns of NYC, former trade editor of Prentice Hall and Bobbs-Merrill. He commissioned John Cutler to write the autobiography of James Michael Curley [I'd Do It Again]. Honey Fitz and Cardinal Cushing of Boston. -- Ed.)

They weren't going to say a word. They'd have let the second anniversary of the Mariner go without notice. The first is the big one and they'd wait till the fifth to set off firecrackers. Well, that's their business. I thought I'd make it mine to let you know more about the Mariner's beginning and the people who've kept it going.

The editors - Michael Stearns and David Cutler (or should I say David Cutler and Michael Stearns) have known one another for a long while. Their families are old friends.

David was born on the fourth of July in Kansas City, Mo., by darn. Mike was born in Pittsfield. One is a few years older than the other (guess). David is a graduate of Colby College in Maine, where he was captain of the varsity football team; Mike went to pace College in New York and did his graduate work at Columbia University.

As early as 1968, David mentioned that Marshfield could use a weekly. But he went about Marine business then worked for the Patriot Ledger. Mike, by the by, was working for the Bergen County Record in New Jersey. In October, 1971, Mike called David and asked if he was interested in starting a paper. And the Marshfield Mariner was born. Editor Cutler was brought up in a newspaper family (Duxbury Clipper). That couldn't have hurt, but it also gave him no guarantee of success. They set up offices on Plain Street with a starter set of newspaper equipment....

David has a wife, Suzy, who is a major part of the Mariner. Suzy is advertising manager and makes up all the ads. Before being ad manager and Mrs. Cutler, Suzy was with the State Department's foreign-service in Washington, D.C. And she's been a social worker, to boot.

The Cutlers have a son Joshua, who makes intermittent visits to the office to browse about a bit.

Then there's Joan Pinkham, who writes the cooking column, the bulk of around town and feature stories. Joan used to write for the Patriot Ledger, the Marshfield Mail and the Old Colony Memorial. Joan is a comfortable writer. A person can read her column and come away relaxed, informed. She feels the Mariner has filled a void and is delighted to see success reflect well on 2 young men who deserve it.

Barbara Hall has always written, but is a graduate of the Massachusetts College of Art. She, like Joan, heard about the formation of a new paper and sauntered into the office to offer her services. They were welcome. Barbara writes feature stories and a lot about town government. She thinks a person who interacts with a town tends to grow with it. Barbara has what folks call a natural flair for making news or views entertaining.

Louis Bernstein does the cartoons. He answered an ad in the Mariner for someone who'd do local cartoons. Now it's not unusual to see Louis in a parked car with pen and paper balanced on the steering wheel, sketching a downhome scene.

Ray Fix sells ads. He also writes a sports column that endears him to wrestlers and runners alike. Lindy Blaisdell and Gerry Leibbrandt take pictures for the paper. Gerry's an MHS student. Lindy isn't. But among other things Lindy is a crack carpenter and a catchy fisherman.

Me, I answered an ad that called for versatility among other things. I figured that meant tap dancing, bookkeeping and Greek mythology. I was close. For me the greatest personal reward has been watching

the natural evolution and growth of a paper whose hometown philosophy I appreciate.

I asked Mike and David what they found most satisfying in having founded the Mariner successfully. David said the nicest compliment they've received is that the Mariner has brought the town together. That is nice. But essentially they appreciate the privilege of doing work they like. They're downright delighted that the Mariner has taken its place as part of Marshfield. As someone said, "That's OUR paper."

After two years as the town crier, "our" paper is solid, building and learning, encouraged by its readers and enlightened by its critics. Or maybe the solidarity of the Mariner simply reflects that of the town. Anyway, the Mariner is 2 years old, alive and well in Marshfield. And I just thought I'd mention it.